

CHATEAU LA PRADE 2005

BORDEAUX COTES DE FRANCS

The finest La Prade I have ever tasted from proprietors Nicolas Thienpont and Thierry Valette, this 1,000-case blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc easily competes with the “big boys” of nearby St-Emilion. Dense purple-hued with a sweet perfume of black currants, cranberries, cherries, licorice, earth and subtle wood, it is an opulent, full-bodied, velvety-textured seriously concentrated effort with no hard edges. Drink it over the next 5-7 years.

Robert Parker, The Wine Advocate (April 08)

91/100

This is very tarry and rich with lots of fruit. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a medium finish. Well done.

James Suckling, www.winespectator.com (31 mars 06)

89-91/100

An undeniable sleeper of the vintage, this brilliant effort from the Côtes de Francs is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Stéphane Derenoncourt, the estate’s winemaking consultant, has fashioned a 2005 boasting 14.5% alcohol that is remarkably fresh as well as superbly concentrated. This classic, powerful, age-worthy claret should last for 10-15 years or more.

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate (May 06)

89-91/100

A certain richness and ripeness, with lots of black fruit that is very expressive. Lovely background structure here, a fine quality of fruit.

Tom Cannavan, www.wine-pages.com (May 06)

88-89/100

Avec 80% de merlot et 20% de cabernet franc, le vin est souple et aimable. Il se boira avec délices dans les quatre prochaines années.

Le Figaro (22 juin 06)

88-89/100

Good saturated ruby. Vinous aromas of cassis, blueberry and menthol. Cleanly made, tight and penetrating, with youthfully backward black and blue fruit flavours. Extremely primary, with firm tannic spine and lingering blueberry finish. Dense and concentrated for this Cote de Francs property on argilo-calcaire soil.

Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar (May/June 06)

87-90/100

